

# Valentine's vows

## *3rd Sig. Bde. Soldier wins wedding*

By Capt. Michael Greenberger

3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

As the sun rose over Central Texas on Valentine's Day, the morning air was pierced by the roar of rush-hour traffic, jack-hammers and circular saws as two Soldiers from Fort Hood were married at a construction site just off Interstate 35 in Austin.

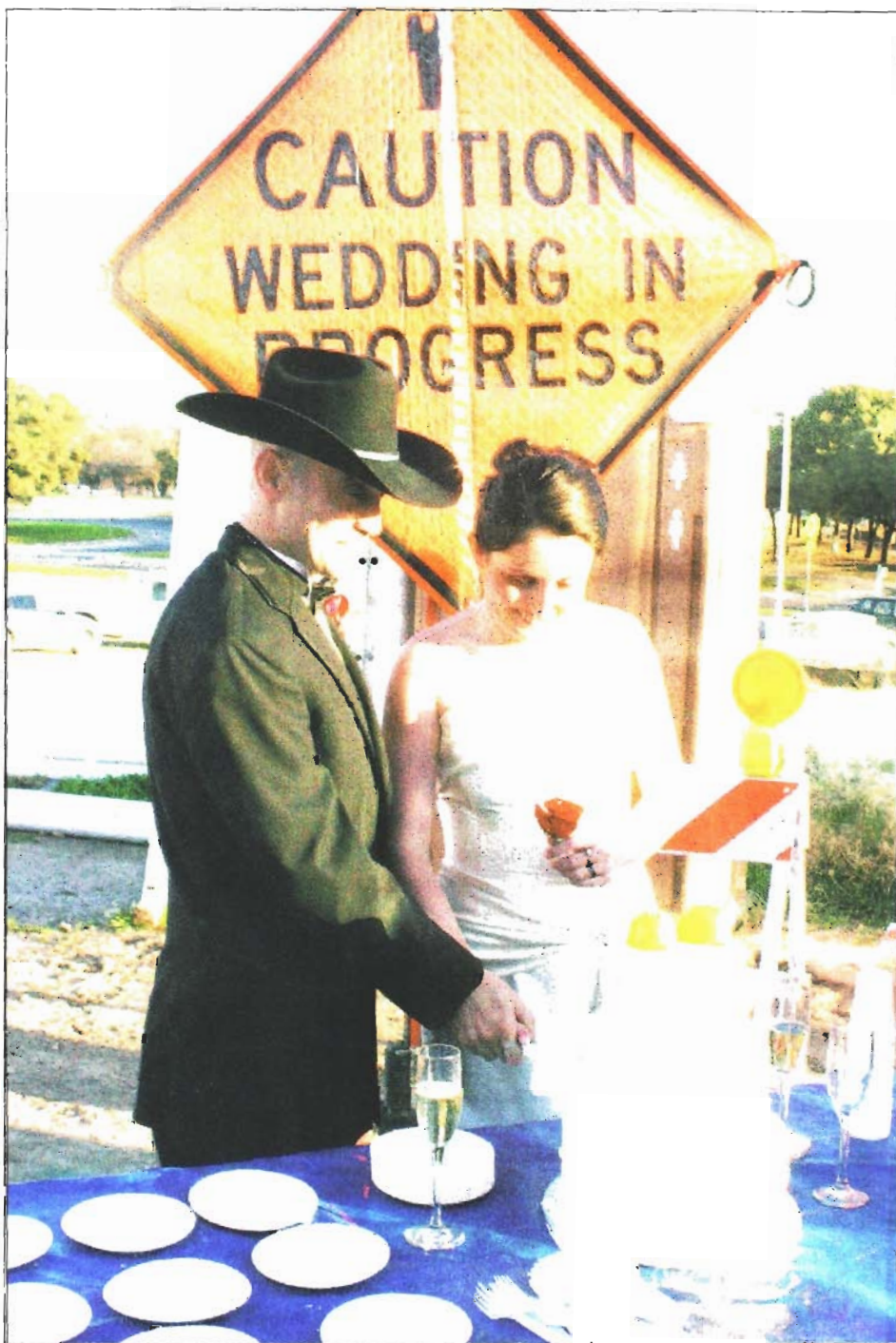
As part of a radio contest, the Morning Crew at KASE-101, Austin, had put together the "construction site" themed wedding for Valentine's Day to embrace the ongoing construction that takes place in Austin.

The prize package included the wedding at a construction site next to the new Long Center for Performing Arts in Austin, a Central Texas honeymoon getaway stay at North Point on Lake Travis, a wedding cake, wedding dress and tuxedo, a photographer, and a justice of the peace to officiate the ceremony.

The cake, wedding dress, tuxedo, hotel, and other amenities were provided by sponsors of the radio station.

The wedding site was decorated in true construction zone style complete with custom-made road signs, orange and white road markers with flashing orange lights lining the "aisle," hardhats, a road-side information sign flashing "congratulations," signs that read "No U-turn" and "Dead-End," and port-a-potties.

Staff Sgt. Cherokee St. Pierre, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Signal Brigade, and Mike Hernandez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 89th Military Police Brigade, both long-time KASE-101 listeners, won the contest by submitting their story to the KASE-101 Morning Crew.



Photos by Capt. Michael Greenberger, 3rd Sig. Bde. PAO

**ABOVE, Mike and Cherokee Hernandez cut the cake shortly after their wedding ceremony. The couple won a contest with KASE-101 radio in Austin for a Valentine's Day wedding ceremony. BELOW, left to right, Rob Mason, Cherokee St. Pierre, justice of the peace, Mike Hernandez, and Bama Brown during the wedding ceremony in Austin.**

According to a KASE-101 representative, the couple was chosen because their story was unique and heartwarming. St. Pierre wrote that she had just gotten back from a deployment to Iraq and that her fiancé, Hernandez, was getting ready to deploy overseas and that planning the wedding and finding a suitable date had been troublesome due to the conflicts associated with serving their country.

Hernandez was inspecting an arms room Feb. 7 when informed by the KASE 101 morning crew that he and St. Pierre had been chosen to receive the wedding on Valentine's Day.

"I was nervous and then excited," remarked St. Pierre when learning of the news. "This wedding is so great because it saved us from having to plan a wedding and provide everything. Even though it was done as a radio contest and it was kind of strange, at the same time it was unique and exciting ... a once in a lifetime opportunity."

As the biting chill gave way to sunrise, Hernandez and St. Pierre danced to country music while waiting to be married. They had been preparing for the event since 4:15 a.m., taking care of minor details, enjoying coffee and donuts with friends, family and on-lookers.

"This thing almost seemed to be getting out of control as pieces are added to make this a complete picture," Hernandez



said. "The cake, the construction 'props,' the media ... it's like a whirlwind you just have to ride out."

The ceremony went off without a hitch. Bama, Rob and Rachel, the KASE 101 morning crew, were on hand to interview the couple every step of the way as the ceremony was broadcast live.

Following the ceremony, the couple danced to their favorite song and then toasted each other with champagne as they cut the ceremonial wedding cake, adorned with "his and hers" hardhats and various work-tools. The couple raced down the "aisle" as guests showered them with rice,

then took off to take photos, also provided by the show.

The couple said they were overjoyed that they are finally married and the stressful event has concluded. They look forward to their upcoming four-day weekend and the time they will get to spend together on their "mini" honeymoon.

Guests included Hernandez's father and brother who traveled from St. Louis to attend the ceremony, and St. Pierre's mother and youngest sister, who traveled from Arlington, Texas.

The couple had been together for two years and engaged since December.